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Organisation

November 2019
Dear friends of IBA’27,

In October 2018, we launched the call for projects and ideas. Although we consciously kept the format open, our question was clear: who will contribute to the reimagining of the Stuttgart City Region as a futureproof space for living? The specialist forums started up at the same time, with more than 20 working groups and 400 people now working on the topics of IBA’27. These include everyone from committed residents to highly respected specialists from the field of research.

We have been overwhelmed by the response. There are municipalities, investors, housing associations and companies across the entire region that want to break new ground. And there is strong interest from residents to fundamentally change the approach to developed space and to our towns and villages – as well as to make an active contribution to this change.

IBA’27 has become an engine of transformation. It has introduced new topics and created a dialogue between people from vastly different backgrounds, while debunking some myths along the way. For example, there is plenty of land available around commuter rail stations, in sparsely populated industrial estates and on land zoned for development. More and more people are realising that the available space is often simply not put to its best use. The process of technological change is freeing up further spaces and offering opportunities for densification, mixed-use concepts and urban building. These possibilities are landing on our desk in the form of project proposals.

Lots of people are looking for ways to take part and help shape the conversation. They are contributing their personal perspectives and desires to the development of new forms of housing and work environments. Needs, ideas and objectives are being formulated and negotiated. Municipalities and investors are becoming open to new forms of involvement and competition for the best solutions. This is in line with the aims of IBA’27 to create fair and futureproof spaces of inclusion, proximity and urban intensity.

After roughly a year of project work, the first transformational processes are under way. It’s not just about satisfying needs or finding short-term answers to urgent problems. Instead, we are getting a sense – right across the region – of readiness, willingness and openness to design the future in a courageous way. The topics and spaces for the IBA’27 programme are emerging from the proposals and discussions submitted within a period of just a few months.

It’s time to say thank you. The fact that we have come so far in just one year is down to community involvement, an appetite for change in municipalities and business as well as competent research, all uniting for this bold and daring venture. We all hope that this huge response will propel us through the coming years. It will allow us to create together the exemplary places that we want to show the world in 2027.

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Hofer
November 2019
The International Building Exhibition as a format

International Building Exhibitions (IBAs) have been around for more than a hundred years.

Inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement in England, an artists’ colony sprang up in Darmstadt’s Mathildenhöhe at the turn of the 20th century that took a critical approach to all areas of life and endeavoured to reorganise them. The results were presented in an exhibition held in 1901. This prime example of German Jugendstil is now viewed as the first building exhibition.

In the 1920s and 1930s, no fewer than six building exhibitions across Europe initiated by Deutscher Werkbund (the German Association of Craftsmen) demonstrated the triumph of Modernism by bringing together industrial production forms, radically new design and new forms of housing. The first and probably most spectacular Werkbund exhibition, »Die Wohnung« (The Dwelling), took place in 1927 in Stuttgart: in addition to the Weissenhof Estate with its 21 model buildings, it presented modern design, contemporary materials and state-of-the-art technology to half a million visitors at a trade fair site in Stuttgart’s city centre.

The 1957 »Interbau« in the Hansaviertel area of Berlin reflected post-war Germany’s attempt to connect with Modernism. The principles showcased there dominated urban planning for the decades to come, with large-scale housing developments and a strict separation of functions. In 1987, IBA Berlin explored the theme of the frac­tures created by those very planning principles. It looked at urban repair and a post-modern conservation of existing urban structures, while also experimenting with new forms of housing and types of buildings. While that IBA met with huge opposition at the time, today it marks the moment when building exhibitions transformed into a tool for reflective debate on the future of urban spaces.

With exhibitions such as IBA Emscher Park in the Ruhr region in the 1990s, the format became an instrument for redesigning entire regions, integrated in broad-based public discourse about the future of cities.

In 2013, IBA Hamburg presented its results; it used the example of the Wilhelmsburg part of the city to look at open communities in cities, at transitional spaces between the conurbations and their surrounding areas and at cities under the influence of climate change. Currently there are IBAs in Basel (where Germany, France and Switzerland meet.), in Heidelberg, in the south of the Netherlands (IBA Parkstad), in Vienna and in the German State of Thuringia. These IBAs will conclude between 2020 and 2023.

Weissenhof Estate – a built manifesto of modern housing

The Weissenhof Estate (Weissenhofsiedlung) is one of the most important examples of »Neues Bauen« (»New Objectivity« or »New Building«) in the history of architecture.

17 international architects, including Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and Hans Scharoun, experimented with floor plans, designs, materials and home technology. In just four and a half months, 21 model buildings with 60 residential units were created. With a clear and sober layout, each home had central heating, a bathroom and toilet as well as a kitchen with gas appliances. The cubic-style flat roofs were unusual for the era, making them the subject of much scorn. The success of the exhibition proved the architects right, however; with roughly 500,000 visitors flocking to the exhibition from far beyond Germany’s borders.

The estate was badly damaged in World War Two, resulting in uncertainty surrounding its future after 1945. It was thanks only to the dedication of the people of Stuttgart and to Theodor Heuss, the Federal President at the time, that the estate was not torn down but in fact declared a protected structure in 1958. In 2016, the two homes by Le Corbusier were given World Heritage Site status.

The question of the ability of existing forms of housing to be futureproof has become current again in recent times. Has the time come once again for radical changes in existing housing typologies, mobility requirements and infrastructure considerations – based on the model of the Weissenhof Estate? How can the city be transformed into a liveable and futureproof space? Exactly one hundred years after the Weissenhof experience, IBA’27 aims to provide answers to these questions through a wide range of experimental projects.

Further information is available at: www.internationale-bauausstellungen.de
IBA’27 sees itself as an open, dialogue-based format for everyone in the Stuttgart Region. Back in 2016, approximately five hundred figures from the local community, politics and administration, planning, architecture, culture and business took part in the participatory platform process to select topics for IBA’27. Organised by Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart GmbH (Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation, WRS) on behalf of the regional assembly, they came up with the key themes for IBA’27 in events and workshops. These are: the building culture of a New Modernism, integrated neighbourhoods, new technologies for a liveable city region as well as the search for a regional identity that transcends borders.

The platform process created the framework for broad political and social consensus on IBA’27. With large majorities, the committees of the City of Stuttgart and Stuttgart Region together with the University of Stuttgart and the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects founded IBA 2027 StadtRegion Stuttgart GmbH and commissioned it with the organisation and implementation of the building exhibition.

In January 2018, the supervisory board of IBA’27 GmbH appointed Swiss architect Andreas Hofer as Director by unanimous vote after advertising the position internationally. Together with his team, he honed the contents and developed an implementation concept for IBA’27. A call launched in the autumn of 2018 marked the start of the open collection of projects. At virtually the same time, specialist forums on the topics of Politics and society, Business and mobility, Planning and building as well as Research and technology commenced their work. They all gather the architectural and urban development expertise in the Stuttgart Region. Working groups explore individual topics in further detail and provide important impetus for the work in the projects and proposals.

An international board of trustees comprising twelve members (p. 23) gives a recommendation to the supervisory board of IBA’27 GmbH on a proposal for inclusion as a project or a neighbourhood and accompanies the qualification process. (p. 19)
No-one can predict how life will be in a few decades, how society will be organised and what the topics of the day will be. The aim of an International Building Exhibition is to show buildings and infrastructures that point toward a future that goes far beyond the presentation year. Together with the project initiators, IBA’27 thus wants to develop resilient buildings, structures, processes and formats that function in various possible future worlds and in different scenarios. What is clear is that we must meet the environmental challenges and respond to technological and social change in a courageous and creative way if we want IBA’27 to be relevant.

The future as a starting point: ten theses on IBA’27

No rigid parameters and knock-out criteria are dispensing with to approach the future instead with a clear stance and qualities for projects.

The following theses form the basis for the content of the proposals and projects and the discussions in the forums and working groups, with the board of trustees and other committees of IBA’27.

Building culture

Our point of departure is the European city as a space designed and used by people. Different eras overlap, each searching for a contemporary expression of beauty using the technologies available at the time. We want future generations to also be able to use the homes and urban spaces created by us in accordance with their needs and to enjoy living in them. Architecture and engineering, urban and landscape planning boldly advance the design of existing spaces and facilitate new forms of use and interaction. The buildings meet the highest aesthetic, technical and functional requirements and constitute a key contribution to regional identity for generations to come.

Polycentric city region

The ongoing process of urbanisation is opening up new prospects for metropolitan spaces. The Stuttgart Region with its polycentric structure offers the best prerequisites for enhancing urban structures throughout the region. The primary objective is not further quantitative growth but, above all else, to improve the quality of residential areas. By breaking down the space into smaller sections and improving the quality of the urban and natural areas, the relative share of public transport, cycling and pedestrian traffic can be increased. This is the only way to improve quality of life and of the environment in a sustainable way.

Appreciation

Buildings are too expensive to be built cheaply. Our building techniques allow us to create structures that endure for several hundreds of years. A consistent focus on the life cycle costs relativises the cost of building and is prompting us to look for lasting construction methods that can be easily repaired and adapted. These also include adaptability to different uses.

Buildings, streets and squares are places for people and for the community. We must ensure that these spaces are open and accessible for all. The economic success of the region is leading to a sharp increase in prices and to a displacement effect. A social mix, inclusion and accessibility must be ensured by means of a far-sighted land and housing policy as well as newly created tools.
New technologies and new processes

During the term of IBA’27, digitalisation will completely permeate the planning and construction processes, building technology and our everyday lives. This is triggering a push toward rationalisation in building and is influencing prefabrication, assembly and the running of buildings. Industrial techniques are no longer limited to individual components. This development will favour modular building techniques, timber construction and other lightweight construction techniques. Sensor systems and data monitoring will help us to understand energy flows and how to optimise the running of buildings.

Energy and materials cycles

The next generation will have to complete the transition in a post fossil-fuel era in order to prevent global battles for resources and to limit climate change. The building industry and the running of buildings are currently the largest source of waste and the largest CO₂ producers. Buildings will need to become carbon sinks and power plants. Fossil fuels are too precious to be burned for heating or for mobility. Neighbourhoods will be more or less self-sufficient in terms of energy, with large-scale grids carrying out buffer, balancing and storage functions. Passive buildings will regulate their own climate and offer a pleasant environment despite expected climate changes. Façades and urban spaces will use their water supply and greenery to prevent the heat island effects of today’s cities.

Mixture

Mixed use shortens distances, enriches our daily life, reduces dependencies and makes it easier to adapt housing and working spaces to new requirements. Jobs, local supply of day-to-day goods, cultural offerings and attractive leisure areas create rich worlds for our everyday lives. Mixed use, density and proximity reduce motorised mobility. Mixture also encompasses cultural and social aspects. The Stuttgart Region has a good reputation as a place to live for people with vastly different values and cultural backgrounds. Growing income inequality, rising rents and property prices are putting this integration at risk. Brave social models will ensure that the region remains an open place in the long term.

New forms of housing

Homes have always been and continue to be the central and most common use of the built environment. High-density neighbourhoods that reduce production costs and new financing, rental and ownership models are providing affordable housing for everyone. This facilitates and promotes residential mobility that can respond to demographic change. It reduces per capita values of land use, and spaces are used efficiently. It creates barrier-free, accessible housing for everyone.

New work environments

Paid work will have a different emphasis, with a lesser status than before. Work routines move away from the traditional 9-to-5 model. Retraining, further training and taking new professional paths become common practice, just like flat hierarchies and the dissolution of traditional corporate structures. Co-working spaces become a self-evident phenomenon, even in areas that used to be purely residential. The possibility to reduce the scale of production areas and to lower emissions as well as a new appreciation of products, circular economies and repairs will bring production sites back into neighbour-hoods and villages – and in return bring a residential use to what were formerly purely industrial areas.

New mobility

Means of transport will become a shared asset and no longer be owned individually. This will minimise stationary traffic and free up valuable spaces inside and outside the buildings. The entire transport system will become more resource-saving and space-saving, and it will be possible to use transport in a more targeted and efficient way. Less motorised traffic that is also efficient will reduce noise and be more compatible with urban life and the environment.

Inclusion in the city region

Digitalisation will not only change the world of work massively, it will also offer possibilities for new forms of political inclusion and participation in the region and the city. Urban and regional design processes will become direct and accessible for all. At the same time, there is an increased need for communication to prevent society from breaking down into groups. The control and monitoring of public spaces must be designed and regulated in a way that allows them to retain their function as a place for all to congregate.
Reinvention of a city region: topics and spaces

Since the start of collecting projects in October 2018, municipalities, initiatives, companies and private initiators have been applying with their small and large proposals to be included in the IBA’27 Network. Although the challenges are often multifaceted, many topics are similar in nature. They can be found in different locations across the Stuttgart Region with a different spatial focus. Naming these topics and spaces gives IBA’27 a face in the Stuttgart City Region and makes it tangible. Their specific buildings, places and typologies will write the next chapter in the history of building and urban development in highly industrialised metropolitan regions going forward.

The topics will continue to be formed throughout the course of IBA’27. They make it possible to develop specific strategies and answers. In what areas are the findings of IBA’27 typical for the region and not transferable? In what areas are they generally applicable but in need of adjustment to local circumstances? And where is the core, which is so universal that it becomes an insight as a component of new urban practices, comparable with the aspirations of Modernism?

The Productive City

Digital transformation, robot-based manufacturing and new concepts for mobility are changing products and production methods in the Stuttgart Region. This allows for new vertically integrated factory concepts and their proximity to noise-sensitive uses, such as housing or education. For many areas in the region, this provides an opportunity to reinvent themselves. Production can return to the city, and industrial areas become urban building blocks. Small-scale urban farming provides the city with high-quality food, has a moderating effect on the climate and increases biodiversity.

This new productive mix can transform what are currently bland industrial zones and purely residential areas into mixed-use, vibrant and creative urban neighbourhoods. But the return of production goes far beyond mixed use in the European city. It not only takes place on a small scale on ground floors and in backyards but also takes the factory as an equal urban building block.

This paradigm shift has far-reaching consequences for the structure of the city. There are many ways in which planning law and investor logic has not yet caught up with these new forms. An IBA is the right format to initiate change. Several projects in the Stuttgart Region want to attempt to do this with IBA’27.
The Future of Centres

Sprawling shopping centres on the outskirts of towns, online sales and changes in consumer behaviour have all increased the pressure on city centres. Traditional bank branches are disappearing, while restaurants and hotels are struggling with small margins and structural issues. Business closures have set in motion a process of devaluing, with what were once the bustling pedestrian areas and shopping streets, the post-war urban development giving way to betting shops, discount stores and take-aways or, ultimately, vacant lots.

In the towns in the Stuttgart Region, there are often several places competing for centrality: the train station at the edge of the old town as a heavily frequented place, an in-between zone with shopping centres, services and cultural institutions that has grown on a large scale in the 1960s and 1970s and is car-friendly, and a compact and historical old town. Large retail parks in industrial zones are putting further pressure on city-centre shops, but are also becoming meeting places and recreational areas in their own right.

Together with IBA’27, some municipalities in the Stuttgart Region are in search of new strategies to restructure this mix and to redefine places for meeting, forging an identity and facilitating social cohesion. Places for congregating and for learning, spaces for culture and community use, for new forms of work and experiments can emerge. What use concepts and operator models do we need in order for this to happen? Are new functions and needs emerging as a result of social and technological change? Is the idea of a traditional town centre still even relevant, or is it breaking down into more diverse structures?

Places for Moving and Meeting

The future of mobility is a topic of particular relevance for the Stuttgart Region as a car manufacturing location, a heavily interwoven metropolitan area with traffic congestion and environmental problems and as a major construction site for the contentious Stuttgart 21 railway station project. As a building exhibition, the focus of IBA’27 is in relation to the topic of mobility will be on the spatial effects for public transport hubs. In the S-Bahn commuter rail network, these are often purely places for stopping, boarding or alighting trains, surrounded by bus stations and park-and-ride facilities with minimum infrastructure.

Apart from the functional pressure caused by increasing passenger numbers, these stations have major potential for densification. With supplementary functions and structures, they could in future become places that reduce traffic. Co-working spaces, short-term accommodation, cultural, sporting, leisure and childcare facilities all make it possible for many journeys to take place on foot or with lightweight vehicles just to the train station, without ever using the train network. Often in close proximity to places with a high concentration of workplaces, for example in industrial parks, the train stations with their infrastructure could improve the quality of day-to-day living by upgrading the work environment by offering services and places to eat, well-designed recreational areas and further infrastructure.

The Legacy of Modernism

The 100th birthday of the Stuttgart Weissenhof Estate is the occasion and point of departure for the second International Building Exhibition in the Stuttgart Region. The yardstick set by the Weissenhof Estate advanced via the Athens Charter towards universal demands for Modernism. It developed its full impact after World War Two: rebuilding destroyed cities, in satellite towns and redeveloping city centres to accommodate cars. The large building complexes of the 1960s and 1970s marked the climax and the end of this development simultaneously.

We have been battling with the legacy of this brief, modernist twentieth century ever since. Several IBA’27 projects are looking for strategies for dealing with the existing stock of buildings and their further development. How can settlements be transformed into neighbourhoods? How can housing concepts geared to small families be refined for a more complex society? How can the large-scale structures already built be adapted to new needs and brought up to date to function in a post-fossil fuel era? And last but not least: How can society support this process to ensure that the buildings sometimes negatively perceived meet with greater acceptance? In addition to the desire to preserve an epoch that was important from the aspect of building culture as well as grey energy that has already been built, we are also inspired by the oft-forgotten social ambitions of Modernism, such as its community-based housing experiments.

On a small scale and looking ahead to the presentation year 2027, these questions are also posed on the Weissenhof Estate. War-time destruction, urban reshaping and at times unfortunate architectural developments make the Weissenhof Estate a symbol of an epoch full of contradictions. With the greatest of respect for the history of the estate, IBA’27 wants to work together with the stakeholders in situ to develop a strategy for the renewal, functional densification and enhancement of the external spaces.

The Neckar River as a Liveable Space

Many people in Stuttgart consider the lack of a connection to the water to be one of the city’s main shortcomings. The Neckar River flows past Stuttgart. But even in the wider region, the river doesn’t live up to its historical and cultural significance. The water quality and the use as a waterway make bathing impossible. Technically, the river is a canal along which industry has developed. Winning back the Neckar and its tributaries as a liveable space and a connecting link that forges the identity of the Stuttgart Region is a task for generations. It will require many regional stakeholders to work together with determination and great effort. IBA’27 intends to use pilot projects and experiments to prove that the river can be transformed and to progress its ecological upgrading.

Cities all around the world have for years been turning their riverbanks and harbours into sought-after locations for recreation and housing after industrial uses have disappeared. With the Neckar, this is only partly true: The port is an important transport and logistics hub, and the riverbanks are still the site of manufacturing. In the narrow valley, key transport arteries directly along the riverbanks make access difficult. The industrial landscape is not a picturesque backdrop but the reality of a manufacturing environment. The studies on the productive city are centred around this aspect. The river can only be developed if this can happen in a way that is compatible with industry. We need new typologies for mixed use that resolve noise and emission conflicts, and we also need regulatory scope to facilitate these new forms of creating a productive yet liveable riverside city.
IBA’27 Network, IBA’27 Projects and IBA’27 Neighbourhoods

IBA’27 has developed different formats for the path to the exhibition year 2027.

IBA’27 Network

The IBA’27 Network brings together construction-related and non-construction-related projects that take an ambitious approach to the future of building, housing and working in the Stuttgart Region. A network of knowledge is created with relevant ideas for the future of the region. The network promotes research, collaboration, discourse – and of course building. IBA’27 documents these projects and promotes an exchange both between the different project initiators and with the working groups, specialist forums and the scientific community.

The basic prerequisites for the inclusion of new project ideas in the IBA’27 Network include a gearing toward ambitious sustainability targets, recognisable future-proof quality, the courage for openness and experimentation and the will to push the boundaries. The ten theses of IBA’27 (p. 11) and the qualities derived from these theses for the projects and proposals provide some guidance here (p. 18).

Municipalities, research and scientific associations, institutions, companies, community stakeholders and initiatives are all submitting their proposals. In a questionnaire, they describe their projects in terms of initiatives are all submitting their proposals. In a questionnaire, they describe their projects in terms of innovative power, ability to function as a model, regional relevance and potential for an International Building Exhibition. The decision whether to include the project in the IBA’27 Network is taken by the Director.

IBA’27 Projects

In discussion with the project initiators, IBA’27 GmbH selects building projects from amongst the entries that have potential for further development as exhibition locations in 2027. The stakeholders agree on specific targets that are set out in individual agreements. The IBA’27 Projects are closely supported by the interdisciplinary team at IBA. For example, IBA’27 provides assistance with the launch of competitions and helps to negotiate potential scope in planning law as well as to source experts to resolve specific problems. It offers professional suggestions, reaches out to partners from science and research, accompanies participation processes and helps with PR work. Last but not least, if necessary it aids in the procurement of additional funding in order to finance the processes and innovations that exceed the normal scope.

IBA’27 Neighbourhoods

Several particularly ambitious large-scale urban development projects will act as anchor points for the exhibition year 2027 as IBA’27 Neighbourhoods. They combine many topics of the future in one place, becoming complex and multifaceted examples for the city of tomorrow. Neighbourhoods can be developed either as new areas or by transforming existing large-scale structures that were previously often used for just one function. As central exhibition locations for IBA’27, neighbourhoods will have to be completed by the presentation year 2027 in realistic planning processes.

The decision of whether a project qualifies as an IBA’27 Project or IBA’27 Neighbourhood is taken by the supervisory board of IBA’27 GmbH at the recommendation of the board of trustees.

Qualification process

Qualities for IBA’27 proposals and projects

An IBA’27 Project is bold, exemplary and future-oriented.

The design of an IBA’27 Project breaks new creative ground, strengthens the building culture in the region and radiates international flair.

An IBA’27 Project promotes cooperation at various levels in the polycentric Stuttgart City Region.

An IBA’27 Project deals sustainably with area, space and resources and strengthens natural landscape and quality of life in the Stuttgart City Region.

An IBA’27 Project uses new technologies and processes to revolutionise planning and construction.

An IBA’27 Project reduces energy consumption, optimises material cycles, and is committed to international climate targets and the preservation of a liveable world.

An IBA’27 Project reacts with robust, flexible resilience strategies to the social and technological change and the uncertain future challenges.

An IBA’27 Project integrates collaborative working, production and housing models, promotes diversity and inclusive mix.

An IBA’27 Project is typologically innovative: It offers space for experimental, flexible forms of housing and neighbourhood models.

An IBA’27 Project creates multifunctional public spaces and enables encounters, creativity, communication and cultural exchange.

An IBA’27 Project creates short distances and tests resource-saving and city-compatible forms of mobility.

An IBA’27 Project puts people at the centre of planning, uses new forms of participation and solidary concepts of sharing.

An IBA’27 Project fulfils the aforementioned qualities (“best practice”) and offers a pioneering development (“next practice”) in at least one of the IBA’27 Qualities.

An IBA’27 Project is economically and technically feasible and is located in the Stuttgart Region. Its planning has not yet been completed and there is a willingness to develop further qualities together with the IBA’27 GmbH.

Rejected proposals

Current list of all projects:
www.iba27.de/projects

Project questionnaire for inclusion in the IBA’27 Network (German):
www.iba27.de/fragebogen-iba-netz
The path to the exhibition

IBA’27 wants to use its roughly ten-year term to inspire discourse around architecture and urban planning in the Stuttgart Region and to get people enthusiastic about new ideas for housing, building and living together. Different formats provide a forum for working together with regional and international stakeholders to develop the city of tomorrow with experts from all over the globe.

The development of projects in the IBA’27 Network, IBA’27 Projects and IBA’27 Neighbourhoods will be documented on an ongoing basis and made accessible to the public.

The annual topics focus on different aspects of urban development and architecture. The aim is to provide impetus for a creative and topic-focused exchange of ideas among the different stakeholders in the Stuttgart City Region. Specialist forums and working groups work in parallel to explore in more detail the core topics of IBA’27 in all of their breadth and to make regional knowledge available for the projects. The working groups meet several times a year. Every six months, they collate their findings at public plenary sessions.

IBA’27 Festivals of experimental and temporary architecture are planned for the years 2023, 2025 and 2027. The festivals will give insights into methods, projects and ideas ahead of the presentation year and offer a platform for discussions, presentations and experiments. Their buildings will demonstrate the unique competency in serial and lightweight construction in the Stuttgart Region. They will show digitally integrated planning processes and experiment with new building materials, energy concepts and building techniques. They should serve as a playing and experimentation field for students and researchers, creatives and practitioners and provide low-threshold access to IBA’27.

IBA’27 Events are non-construction-related projects that enrich the IBA process, convey knowledge and facilitate dialogue. Series of events, exhibitions or communication projects showcase innovations from all over the world. They start a conversation between people of all ages, backgrounds and education about questions relating to the future of the city and the region.

In the presentation year 2027, the exhibition locations will open their doors to the public. Buildings, neighbourhoods and infrastructures will make the departure in urban development in the Stuttgart Region visible and tangible.
IBA 2027 StadtRegion Stuttgart GmbH

IBA 2027 StadtRegion Stuttgart GmbH with its headquarters in Stuttgart is in charge of managing the International Building Exhibition. It provides impetus, advice, networking opportunities and support and develops the projects together with the partner organisations. It also promotes a dialogue between the projects and with experts in the region and from all over the world. Furthermore, it coordinates the work of the regional specialist forums and working groups as well as of the board of trustees and is responsible for overall communication of IBA’27.

Andreas Hofer is the Director and general manager and is responsible for managing the content. He is supported by an interdisciplinary team from the fields of architecture, geography, communication, urban planning and research as well as scenography.

Partners

The partners are the City of Stuttgart (45 percent), Verband Region Stuttgart (an organisation of local authorities in the Stuttgart Region) and the Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart GmbH) (45 percent together), the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects and the University of Stuttgart (5 percent each). The Chamber of Architects as a partner represents further chambers and associations such as BDA Deutscher Architekten (Association of German Architects) and Ingenieurrkammer Baden-Württemberg (Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Engineers), while the University of Stuttgart represents other third-level institutions in the region.

Supervisory board

The supervisory board supervises and advises the management. The fundamental decisions for IBA 2027 StadtRegion Stuttgart GmbH are taken by the supervisory board. The chairperson of the supervisory board, which includes a total of 20 representatives of the partners, alternates every two years between the City of Stuttgart and the Stuttgart Region in accordance with the articles of incorporation.

Board of trustees

The board of trustees of IBA’27 comprises twelve experts from different disciplines from all over the world. They work together closely to refine requirements for IBA’27 Projects and make recommendations on the inclusion of projects and neighbourhoods in the exhibition programme. The board of trustees ensures the quality and is on hand to float ideas for IBA’27.

Specialist forums

There are four open specialist forums for content-based work on the topics »Politics and society«, »Business and mobility«, »Research and technology« and »Planning and building«. The forums are open discussion platforms that are pleased to welcome new interested parties and participants. Their work is assisted by well-known persons in the Stuttgart Region who have broad expertise of the respective focus topics.

Within the forums, working groups have emerged that work on specific questions and tasks from projects or develop their own project ideas. The working groups and forums convene twice a year for plenary sessions, where the results are presented and discussed. In this way, a vast pool of knowledge is created that benefits IBA’27, the projects and the entire Stuttgart Region.

Specialist forums and plenary sessions

Politics and society specialist forum

WG Participation

WG Housing in upheaval and transition

WG Smart city – digitalisation, ethics and participation

Business and mobility specialist forum

WG Smart mobility in a smart city

WG Mobility hubs

WG Full garages and the future of work

Research and technology specialist forum

WG Productive city

WG Climate neutral transformation

WG Textile construction

Planning and building specialist forum

WG Regional planning culture for a regional IBA

WG Housing and manufacturing, industry / commerce / hybrid concepts.

WG Public transport, densification

WG Density and quality

WG New forms of mixed use and social neighbourhoods development

WG Free space

WG Space requirements / land use

WG Neighbourhoods community funds / development of building land for the common good

WG Housing for everyone in a functioning urban community

WG Images for a futureproof city region

WG Lightweight construction in the urban system

WG Biodiversity meets urban culture

Members of the board of trustees of IBA’27

Hans Drexler

(DGU Architektur GmbH, Frankfurt am Main / Zurich / The Hague)

Agnes Förster

(STUDIO | STADT | REGION Munich)

Andreas Hofer

(IBA’27 Director, Chair of the board of trustees)

Andreas Kipar

(LAND – Landscape Architecture Nature Development, Milan / Lugano / Düsseldorf)

Folke Köbberling

(Institut für Architekturbereozogene Kunst (Institute of Architectural Art), Braunschweig Technical University)

Regine Leibinger

(Barkow Leibinger, Berlin / New York)

Anh-Linh Ngo

(ARCH+, Berlin)

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Do you have questions or ideas about IBA’27?
Do you want to make specific project proposals or suggestions for discussion?
We would be delighted to hear from you!

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